

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

Casey Sterk and Kevin Maher individually and on behalf of others similarly situated,)	
)	
)	Case No. 18-cv-10634
)	
Plaintiff(s))	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
)	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
v.)	
)	
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO., JOHN)	
EDMONDS, and JOHN DOES,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
)	

Plaintiffs Casey Sterk and Kevin Maher (“Plaintiffs”), based upon personal knowledge, information, belief, and investigation of counsel, allege as follows against Defendants JPMorgan Chase & Co., John Edmonds, and John Does (collectively, “Defendants”).

SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS

1. This action arises from Defendants’ unlawful and intentional manipulation of gold, silver, platinum, and palladium futures and options contracts (collectively, “Precious Metals Futures Contracts”) which were traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange (“NYMEX”) and the Commodity Exchange, Inc. (“COMEX”) from at least as early as January 1, 2009 through at least December 31, 2015 (the “Class Period”) in violation of the Commodity Exchange Act, 7 U.S.C. §§ 1, *et seq.* (the “CEA”) and the common law.
2. Defendants consist of a group of precious metals traders and their employer.

3. On October 9, 2018, Defendant Edmonds pled guilty in the District of Connecticut to one count of conspiracy to defraud the market and manipulate the prices of NYMEX and COMEX Precious Metals Futures Contracts and one count of commodities fraud.¹

4. Defendants manipulated the prices of NYMEX and COMEX precious metals futures and options contracts during the Class Period using a technique called “spoofing” whereby Defendants routinely placed electronic orders to buy and sell such futures contracts with the intent to cancel those orders before execution (“spoof orders”). *See infra* ¶ 38.

5. These spoofing orders injected materially false and illegitimate signals of supply and demand into the market and were intended to induce other market participants, such as the Plaintiffs, to trade against Defendants’ genuine orders.

6. But for the Defendants’ misleading inducements, Plaintiffs and the other market participants otherwise would not have traded.

7. Accordingly, the spoof orders were designed to, and did, artificially move the prices of NYMEX and COMEX precious metals futures and options contracts during the Class Period in a direction that was favorable to Defendants, but unfavorable to Plaintiffs.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

8. Gold, silver, platinum, and palladium are “commodities” and are the “commodities underlying” the futures and options contracts traded on the NYMEX and COMEX, as those terms are defined and used in Sections 1a(4) and 22 of the CEA, 7 U.S.C. §§ 1a(4) and 25(a)(1)(D), respectively.

¹ *U.S. v Edmonds*, No. 10 CR 239, ECF Nos. 7-8 (D. Conn. Oct. 9, 2018). The Edmond case stemmed from an ongoing investigation run by the FBI’s New York field office. Plaintiffs anticipate that the DOJ will take further actions as their investigation proceeds.

9. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Section 22 of the CEA, 7 U.S.C. § 25, and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1337.

10. Venue is proper in the Southern District of New York, pursuant to Section 22 of the CEA, 7 U.S.C. § 25(c), and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), (c) and (d). The Defendants transacted business in the Southern District of New York, the claims arose in the Southern District of New York, and a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in the Southern District of New York.

11. Defendants made use of the means and instrumentalities of transportation or communication in, or the instrumentalities of, interstate commerce, or of the mails in connection with the unlawful acts and practices and courses of business alleged in this Complaint.

PARTIES

A. Plaintiffs

12. Plaintiff Casey Sterk is an individual who resides in Encinitas, California. Mr. Sterk transacted in silver, gold and platinum futures contracts at artificial prices proximately caused by Defendants' manipulative conduct. As a result, Mr. Sterk was damaged and suffered legal injury to his business or property.

13. Plaintiff Kevin Maher is an individual who resides in Cambridge, New York state. Mr. Maher transacted in silver and gold futures contracts at artificial prices proximately caused by Defendants' manipulative conduct. As a result, Mr. Maher was damaged and suffered legal injury to his business or property

B. Defendants

14. Defendant JPMorgan Chase & Co. ("JPM") is an investment bank and financial services company headquartered in this District at 270 Park Avenue, New York, New York, 10017. Defendant JPM provides businesses, institutions, and individuals with investment banking,

treasury and securities, asset management, private banking, and commercial banking services. Its U.S.-based traders transacted in precious metals futures and options contracts on NYMEX and COMEX throughout the Class Period.

15. Defendant Edmonds was employed by Defendant JPM during the Class Period as a precious metals trader. Defendant Edmonds is a resident of Brooklyn, New York and pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to defraud the market and manipulate the prices of NYMEX and COMEX Precious Metals Futures Contracts and one count of commodities fraud related to the allegations herein.

16. Defendants John Does, are other precious metals traders employed by Defendant JPM that participated in, facilitated, and assisted with the manipulation and unlawful conduct alleged herein. These defendants are both known and unknown to the United States Attorney.

SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

A. Market Background and Definitions

17. The CME Group is comprised of four Designated Contract Markets (“DCMs”).² The CME Group is also the holding company and the parent of the NYMEX and COMEX. The CME Group’s Global Headquarters is located at 20 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

18. CME Globex, which is owned and operated by the CME Group, is an electronic trading platform used to trade futures and options contracts. CME Globex is an open access marketplace that allows a market participant to directly enter his or her own trades and participate in the trading process. This includes the ability to view the book of orders and real-time price data virtually 24 hours a day.

19. The CME Globex platform facilitates the trading of futures and options contracts, between buyers and sellers, including trading other than on a principal-to-principal basis.

² The DCMs are CME, CBOT, COMEX, and NYMEX.

20. To access CME Globex, customers must have a CME Group clearing firm relationship, CME Group-certified trading application and connectivity to CME Globex.³ Thus, anyone who has an account with a Futures Commission Merchant (“FCM”)⁴ or an Introducing Broker, can trade on CME Globex.⁵

21. CME Globex falls within the Commodity Futures Trading Commission’s definition of an “exchange” *i.e.*, “[a] central marketplace with established rules and regulations where buyers and sellers meet to trade futures and options contracts or securities.”⁶

22. A variety of CME Group products are available to trade on the CME Globex platform including, but not limited to, precious metals futures and options contracts.⁷

23. A futures contract is a legally binding, standardized agreement to buy or sell a standardized commodity, specifying quantity and quality at a set price on a future date (the delivery date). In practice, very few futures contracts, which are traded each year, are satisfied by the delivery of the underlying commodity.

24. There are two sides to a futures contract a “long” side and a “short” side. The “long” side is the buyer of the futures contract. This means that the person with the “long” side is obligated to take delivery and pay for the commodity at the agreed upon future delivery date

25. The “short” side is the seller of the contract. This means that the person with the “short” side is obligated to make delivery of the underlying commodity on the agreed upon future delivery date.

26. Very few futures contracts are satisfied by delivery as most long buyers and short

³ CME Globex Reference Guide, p. 5 (*available at* <https://www.cmegroup.com/globex/files/GlobexRefGd.pdf>).

⁴ An FCM is an individual or organization involved in the solicitation or acceptance of buy or sell orders for futures or options on futures in exchange for a commission or other assets from customers.

⁵ CME Globex Reference Guide, p. 2 (*available at* <https://www.cmegroup.com/globex/files/GlobexRefGd.pdf>).

⁶ https://www.cftc.gov/ConsumerProtection/EducationCenter/CFTCGlossary/glossary_e.html.

⁷ CME Globex Reference Guide, p. 5 (*available at* <https://www.cmegroup.com/globex/files/GlobexRefGd.pdf>).

sellers will offset or roll their obligation. To offset a futures contract the individual must execute a trade which is the opposite of the position they currently have. For example, if individual buys one long futures contract set for delivery in December to offset that trade they must sell one short futures contract of the same futures contract set to delivery in December.

27. An options contract is an agreement that gives the buyer, or “option holder,” the right, but not the obligation, to either buy or sell something at a specified price during a specified time period. The buyer of an option pays an “option premium” to the seller for the right to buy (call option) or sell (put option) the underlying commodity.

28. A “call option” confers upon the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy the commodity at the specified price (the “strike” price) within a specific period of time. Conversely, the seller of a “call option” is obligated to deliver a long position in the underlying commodity if the buyer opts to exercise the option. This means the call buyer will profit when the underlying asset increases in price, and the seller profits when the underlying asset decreases in price.

29. A “put option” confer upon the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to sell the underlying commodity at the strike price within a specific period of time. The seller of a put option then has the obligation to buy the underlying commodity at the strike price if the option is exercised. A put option becomes more valuable as the price of the underlying stock depreciates relative to the strike price. Conversely, a put option loses its value as the underlying stock increases. It also decreases in value as the expiration date approaches.

30. The COMEX Gold Futures Contract (“GC”) is a futures contract where the underlying commodity is 100 troy ounces of gold. COMEX gold futures contracts are listed on the COMEX and traded electronically on the CME’s Globex platform.⁸

⁸ See https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/metals/precious/gold_contractSpecs_futures.html.

31. The COMEX Gold Options Contract (“OG”) is an options contract where the underlying contract is one COMEX Gold futures contract. COMEX gold options contracts are listed on the COMEX and traded electronically on the CME’s Globex platform.⁹

32. The NYMEX Palladium Futures Contracts (“PA”) have an underlying contract commodity is 100 troy ounces palladium. NYMEX palladium futures contracts are listed on the NYMEX, subject to the rules and regulations of NYMEX, and traded electronically on the CME’s Globex platform.¹⁰

33. The NYMEX Palladium Options Contracts (“PAO”) have an underlying contract of one NYMEX Palladium futures contract. NYMEX palladium options contracts are listed on the NYMEX, subject to the rules and regulations of NYMEX, and traded electronically on the CME’s Globex platform.¹¹

34. The NYMEX Platinum Futures Contract (“PL”) have an underlying commodity is 50 troy ounces of platinum. NYMEX platinum futures contracts are listed on the NYMEX, subject to the rules and regulations of NYMEX, and traded electronically on the CME’s Globex platform.¹²

35. The NYMEX Platinum Options Contract (“PO”) have an underlying contract is one NYMEX Platinum futures contract. NYMEX platinum options contracts are listed on the NYMEX, subject to the rules and regulations of NYMEX, and traded electronically on the CME’s Globex platform.¹³

⁹ https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/metals/precious/gold_contractSpecs_options.html

¹⁰ https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/metals/precious/palladium_contractSpecs_futures.html

¹¹ https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/metals/precious/palladium_contractSpecs_options.html

¹² https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/metals/precious/platinum_contractSpecs_futures.html

¹³ https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/metals/precious/platinum_contractSpecs_options.html

36. The COMEX Silver Futures Contract (“SI”) is a futures contract where the underlying commodity is 5,000 troy ounces of silver. COMEX silver futures contracts are listed on the COMEX, subject to the rules and regulations of COMEX and traded electronically on the CME’s Globex platform.¹⁴

37. The COMEX Silver Options Contract (“SO”) is a futures contract where the underlying commodity is one COMEX Silver futures contract. COMEX silver futures contracts are listed on the COMEX, subject to the rules and regulations of COMEX and traded electronically on the CME’s Globex platform.¹⁵

38. Spoofing is a disruptive and prohibited trading practice. It is the act of entering an order or causing an order with the intent to cancel the order before execution or to modify the order to avoid execution. This is typically done to generate selling or buying interest in a specific contract and creates a misleading and artificial appearance of buy-or sell-side pressure.¹⁶

B. Defendants Manipulated The Prices Of NYMEX And COMEX Precious Metals Futures And Options Contracts To Artificial Levels Throughout The Class Period

39. The social benefits that justify commodity futures trading are (a) price discovery; (b) efficient risk-transfer, and (c) price stabilization. See *Cargill, Inc. v. Hardin*, 452 F.2d 1154, 1156-58 (8th Cir. 1971). Price manipulation destroys all three of these benefits. *Cargill*, 452 F.2d at 1156- 58.

40. To reap those social benefits commodities traders must be acting in accordance with the standard behavior of acting in an economic and economically rational manor.

¹⁴ <https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/metals/>

¹⁵ https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/metals/precious/silver_contractSpecs_options.html?optionProductId=193#optionProductId=193

¹⁶ <https://institute.cmegroup.com/courses/market-regulation/modules/disruptive-practices-prohibited-spoofing>

41. When an organization or an individual fails to act in an economic or economically rational manner those actions (or lack of actions) are deemed to be pursuant to a manipulative scheme.

42. An example of a failure to act in accordance with the social benefits of commodities futures trading is by “spoofing,” and creating an illusion in the market to benefit from the false market movement they created. Such actions were taken by the Defendants over the Class Period. *See infra* ¶¶ 46-50.

43. Instead of acting in an economically rational manner the Defendants’ perpetrated a sophisticated manipulative scheme in which they injected materially false and illegitimate signals of supply and demand into the market in order to (a) induce other market participants to trade against Defendants’ genuine orders (*i.e.*, orders that Defendants did want to execute) on the opposite side of the market from the spoof orders at prices, quantities, and times at which Plaintiffs and the other market participants otherwise would not have traded, and (b) financially benefit Defendants.

44. Defendants routinely placed electronic orders to buy and sell NYMEX and COMEX Precious Metals Futures Contracts with the intent to cancel those orders before execution to make profits and avoid losses.

45. Defendant Edmonds already admitted that, from 2009 through 2015, he “knowingly and willfully conspired with others at [Defendant] JP Morgan to commit wire fraud, commodities fraud, commodities price manipulation and spoofing, and [] knowingly and with the intent to defraud executed, and attempted to execute, a scheme to defraud others in connection with Precious Metals Futures Contracts.”¹⁷

¹⁷ *U.S. v Edmonds*, No. 10 CR 239, ECF No 3 (D. Conn. Oct 9, 2018).

46. Defendant Edmonds further admitted that as a precious metals trader at Defendant JPM he was “instructed by supervisors and more senior traders to trade in a certain fashion namely, to place orders that [he] intended to cancel before execution, which is also referred to as ‘spoofing’. More specifically, [he] was instructed that if a client wished to sell futures, [he] should simultaneously place both bids and offers with the intent of canceling the bids prior to execution. In other words, by placing bids that [he] never intended to execute, [he] would falsely transmit liquidity and price information, which would deceive other market participants regarding supply and demand. These actions would induce those other market participants to trade against the orders that [he and Defendant JPM] wanted to execute. Stated differently, by placing multiple bids which [he and Defendant JPM] never intended to execute, [he and Defendant JPM] created market activity which artificially drove the sell price up and induced other market participants to purchase at an inflated price.”¹⁸

47. Defendants Edmonds and JPM would also follow the procedure referenced above in ¶ 46 if their client wished to buy precious metals futures.

48. A specific example of Defendant Edmonds’ and JPM’s manipulative behavior took place on or about October 12, 2012. On that date at approximately 1:08:48.831 p.m. (Central Daylight Time), Defendant Edmonds, with the knowledge and consent of his supervisors at JPM, placed a spoof order to sell 402 COMEX silver futures contracts at the price of \$33.610.

49. Defendants placed this order with the intent, to cancel the offer before it could be executed which sent materially false and illegitimate signals of supply and demand to the market so that Defendants could purchase approximately six COMEX silver futures contracts at an artificially low price.

¹⁸ *U.S. v Edmonds*, No. 10 CR 239, ECF No 3 (D. Conn. Oct 9, 2018).

50. Defendants' false and misleading orders were placed electronically from JPM's computers in New York, New York, and traveled interstate to servers in Chicago, Illinois.

51. This manipulative strategy injured Plaintiffs and the Class by causing them to transact in NYMEX and COMEX precious metals futures and options contracts at artificial prices and thereby suffer monetary losses.

52. Through their manipulative conduct, Defendants unlawfully increased their profits at the expense of Plaintiffs and the Class. As a result of Defendants' sophisticated manipulative strategy, innocent market participants such as Plaintiffs who traded NYMEX and COMEX precious metals futures and options contracts, traded at artificial prices throughout the Class Period caused by Defendants' manipulation.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

53. Plaintiffs bring this action as a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on behalf of themselves and as representatives of the following Class:

All persons and entities that were injured by Defendants' illegal activities who purchased or sold any NYMEX platinum futures contract, NYMEX palladium futures contract, COMEX silver futures contract, COMEX gold futures contract, or any option on those futures contracts, during the period of at least January 1, 2009 through at least December 31, 2015.

54. Excluded from the Class are Defendants, their officers and directors, management, employees, subsidiaries, or affiliates. Also excluded from the Class is the Judge presiding over this action, his or her law clerks, spouse, any other person within the third degree of relationship living in the Judge's household, the spouse of such person, and the United States Government.

55. The Class is so numerous that joinder of the individual members of the proposed Class is impracticable. While the exact number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs believe that at least hundreds, if not thousands, of geographically dispersed Class members transacted in NYMEX platinum futures contract, NYMEX palladium futures contract,

COMEX silver futures contract, COMEX gold futures contract, or any option on those futures contracts throughout the Class Period.

56. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the other members of the Class. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class sustained damages arising out of Defendants' common course of conduct in the violations of law as complained of herein. The injuries and damages of each member of the Class were directly caused by Defendants' wrongful conduct in violation of the laws as alleged herein.

57. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Class. Plaintiffs are adequate representatives of the Class and have no interests that are adverse to the interests of absent Class members. Plaintiffs have retained counsel competent and experienced in class action litigation, including commodity futures manipulation class action litigation.

58. Common questions of law or fact exist as to Plaintiffs and all Class members, and these common questions predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Class. These predominant questions of law and/or fact common to the Class include, without limitation:

- a. Whether Defendants' manipulated the price of NYMEX platinum futures contract(s), NYMEX palladium futures contract(s), COMEX silver futures contract(s), COMEX gold futures contract(s), or the price of options on those futures contracts, in violation of the CEA;
- b. Whether Defendants' manipulated the price of NYMEX platinum futures contract(s), NYMEX palladium futures contract(s), COMEX silver futures contract(s), COMEX gold futures contract(s), or the price of options on those futures contracts, to be artificial;
- c. Whether such manipulation caused a cognizable injury under the CEA;
- d. Whether Defendants' unlawful conduct caused actual damages to Plaintiffs and the Class;
- e. Whether Defendants were unjustly enriched at the expense of Plaintiffs and members of the Class;

- f. The operative time period and extent of Defendants' unlawful conduct; and
- g. The appropriate nature and measure of Class-wide relief.

59. A class action is superior to other methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because joinder of all Class members is impracticable. Treatment as a class action will permit a "large number" of similarly situated persons to adjudicate their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Class treatment will also permit the adjudication of claims by many class members who could not afford individually to litigate claims such as those asserted in this Complaint. The cost to the court system of adjudication of such individualized litigation would be substantial. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications, establishing incompatible standards of conduct for the Defendants.

60. Plaintiffs are unaware of any difficulties that are likely to be encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

EQUITABLE TOLLING AND FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT

61. The applicable statutes of limitations relating to the claims for relief alleged in herein were tolled because of fraudulent concealment involving both active acts of concealment by Defendants and inherently self-concealing conduct.

62. Defendants concealed their manipulative acts by, *inter alia*, placing orders electronically with the intent to buy or sell NYMEX and COMEX Precious Metals Futures Contracts at a certain price, even though they secretly had no intent of transacting at that level. At no point did Defendant disclose that they placed these orders to manipulate the prices of NYMEX and COMEX Precious Metals Futures Contracts. Because of such fraudulent concealment, and the fact that Defendants' manipulation is inherently self-concealing, Plaintiffs and the members of the

Class could not have discovered the existence of Defendants' manipulation any earlier than the date of the public disclosures thereof. As a result, Plaintiffs and the Class had no knowledge of Defendants' unlawful and self-concealing manipulative acts and could not have discovered the same by the exercise of due diligence on or before November 5, 2018, when U.S. District Court Judge Robert N. Chatigny granted the U.S. Department of Justice's motion to unseal the case, against Defendant Edmonds.¹⁹

63. As a result of the concealment of Defendants' unlawful conduct, and the self-concealing nature of Defendants' manipulative acts, Plaintiffs assert the tolling of the applicable statute of limitations affecting the rights of the causes of action asserted by Plaintiffs.

64. Defendants are equitably estopped from asserting that any otherwise applicable limitations period has run.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Manipulation in Violation of the Commodity Exchange Act

7 U.S.C. §§ 1, *et seq.*

(As Against All Defendants)

65. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate the preceding allegations of this Complaint with the same force and effect as if fully restated herein.

66. Defendants through their acts alleged herein, from at least January 1, 2009 through at least December 31, 2015, specifically intended to and did cause unlawful and artificial prices of NYMEX platinum futures contracts, NYMEX palladium futures contracts, COMEX silver futures contracts, COMEX gold futures contracts, and options on those futures contracts, in violation of the CEA, 7 U.S.C. § 1, *et seq.*, through their use of fictitious buy and sell orders and other manipulative conduct.

¹⁹ *U.S. v Edmonds*, No. 10 CR 239, ECF No. 12 (D. Conn. Oct 9, 2018).

67. Defendants manipulated the price of a commodity in interstate commerce or for future delivery on or subject to the rules of any registered entity, in violation of the CEA.

68. During the Class Period, the prices of NYMEX platinum futures contracts, NYMEX palladium futures contracts, COMEX silver futures contracts, COMEX gold futures contracts, and options on those futures contracts, did not result from the legitimate market information and the forces of supply and demand. Instead, the prices of NYMEX platinum futures contracts, NYMEX palladium futures contracts, COMEX silver futures contracts, COMEX gold futures contracts, and options on those futures contracts, were artificially inflated, or deflated, by Defendants' spoofing and other manipulative trading activities.

69. Throughout the Class Period, Defendants entered large orders to buy or sell without the intention of having those orders filled, and specifically intending to cancel those orders prior to execution. Defendants did this with the intent to inject illegitimate information about supply and demand into the market place, and to artificially move prices up or down to suit Defendants' own trades and positions. As a result of these artificial prices, Plaintiffs and the Class suffered losses on their trades in NYMEX platinum futures contracts, NYMEX palladium futures contracts, COMEX silver futures contracts, COMEX gold futures contracts, and options on those futures contracts.

70. Through their use of spoofing and other manipulative techniques, Defendants manipulated the prices of NYMEX platinum futures contracts, NYMEX palladium futures contracts, COMEX silver futures contracts, COMEX gold futures contracts, and options on those futures contracts, throughout the Class Period and thereby caused damages to Plaintiffs and Class members who purchased or sold such instruments at the artificially inflated or deflated prices.

71. At all times and in all circumstances previously alleged herein, Defendants had the ability to cause and did cause artificial prices of NYMEX platinum futures contracts, NYMEX palladium futures contracts, COMEX silver futures contracts, COMEX gold futures contracts, and

options on those futures contracts. Defendants, either directly and/or through their employees and/or affiliates, were active in the markets for NYMEX platinum futures contracts, NYMEX palladium futures contracts, COMEX silver futures contracts, COMEX gold futures contracts, and options on those futures contracts, and were aware of the effects of spoofing and other manipulative conduct on those markets.

72. By their intentional misconduct, Defendants each violated Sections 6(c), 6(d), 9(a), and 22(a) of the CEA, 7 U.S.C. §§ 9, 13b, 13(a), and 25(a), throughout the Class Period.

73. As a result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Class have suffered damages and injury-in-fact due to artificial prices for NYMEX platinum futures contracts, NYMEX palladium futures contracts, COMEX silver futures contracts, COMEX gold futures contracts, and options on those futures contracts, to which Plaintiffs and the Class would not have been subject but for the unlawful conduct of the Defendants as alleged herein.

74. Plaintiffs and members of the Class are entitled to actual damages sustained in NYMEX platinum futures contracts, NYMEX palladium futures contracts, COMEX silver futures contracts, COMEX gold futures contracts, and options on those futures contracts for the violations of the CEA alleged herein.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF
For Employing a Manipulative and Deceptive Device
In Violation of The Commodity Exchange Act
7 U.S.C. §§ 1, *et seq.* and Regulation 180.1(a)
(As Against All Defendants)

75. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate the preceding allegations of this Complaint with the same force and effect as if fully restated herein.

76. Defendants' unlawful conduct as described herein, including the use of systematically submitting and cancelling spoof orders and engaging in other manipulative conduct in order to artificially move prices for NYMEX platinum futures contracts, NYMEX palladium

futures contracts, COMEX silver futures contracts, COMEX gold futures contracts, and options on those futures contracts, constitutes the employment of a manipulative and deceptive device.

77. As alleged herein, Defendants acted intentionally—and, even if they are found to not have acted intentionally, then at least acted recklessly—in employing the manipulative and deceptive device to procure ill-gotten trading profits at the expense of Plaintiffs and the Class.

78. By their intentional misconduct, Defendants each violated Sections 6(c) and 22(a) of the CEA, 7 U.S.C. §§ 9 and 25(a), throughout the Class Period.

79. As a result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Class have suffered damages and injury-in-fact due to artificial prices for NYMEX platinum futures contracts, NYMEX palladium futures contracts, COMEX silver futures contracts, COMEX gold futures contracts, and options on those futures contracts, to which Plaintiffs and the Class would not have been subject but for the unlawful conduct of the Defendants as alleged herein.

80. Plaintiffs and members of the Class are entitled to damages for the violations of the CEA alleged herein.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Principal-Agent Liability for Violation of The Commodity Exchange Act
7 U.S.C. §§ 1, *et seq.*
(As Against All Defendants)

81. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate the preceding allegations of this Complaint with the same force and effect as if fully restated herein.

82. Each Defendant is liable under Section 2(a)(1) of the CEA, 7 U.S.C. § 2(a)(1), for the manipulative acts of their agents, representatives, and/or other persons acting for them in the scope of their employment.

83. Plaintiffs and members of the Class are entitled to damages for the violation alleged herein.

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Unjust Enrichment
(As Against All Defendants)

84. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate the preceding allegations of this Complaint with the same force and effect as if fully restated herein.

85. Defendants benefited financially from their unlawful acts. As alleged herein, Defendants submitted spoof orders electronically and employed other manipulative techniques to manipulate the prices of NYMEX platinum futures contracts, NYMEX palladium futures contracts, COMEX silver futures contracts, COMEX gold futures contracts, and options on those futures contracts, in an artificial direction. Defendants intended to, and did, artificially alter prices in a direction that benefitted their trades and positions, at the expense of Plaintiffs and the Class.

86. These unlawful acts caused Plaintiffs and other members of the Class to suffer injury, lose money, and transact at artificial prices for in NYMEX platinum futures contracts, NYMEX palladium futures contracts, COMEX silver futures contracts, COMEX gold futures contracts, and options on those futures contracts.

87. As a result of the foregoing, it is unjust and inequitable for Defendants to have enriched themselves in this manner at the expense of Plaintiffs and members of the Class, and the circumstances are such that equity and good conscience require Defendants to make restitution.

88. Each Defendant should pay restitution for its own unjust enrichment to Plaintiffs and members of the Class.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court grant the requested relief as follows:

- a. for an Order certifying this lawsuit as a class action pursuant to Rules 23(a) and 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, designating Plaintiffs as the Class representative, and appointing their counsel as Class counsel;

- b. for a Judgment awarding Plaintiffs and the Class damages against Defendants for their violations of the CEA, together with prejudgment interest at the maximum rate allowable by law;
- c. for a Judgment awarding Plaintiffs and the Class restitution of any and all sums of Defendants' unjust enrichment;
- d. for an award to Plaintiffs and the Class of their costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' and experts' fees and expenses; and
- e. for such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury for all issues so triable.

Dated: November 14, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Linda P. Nussbaum

Linda P. Nussbaum
Fred T. Isquith, Jr.
NUSSBAUM LAW GROUP, P.C.
1211 Avenue of the Americas, 40th Floor
New York, NY 10036-8718
(917) 438-9102
lnussbaum@nussbaumpc.com
fisquith@nussbaumpc.com

Adam Frankel (*pro hac pending*)
GREENWICH LEGAL ASSOCIATES, LLC
881 Lake Avenue
Greenwich, CT 06831
Telephone & Fax: 203-622-6001
afrankel@grwlegal.com

Counsel for Plaintiffs and the Proposed Class